

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Mark Shu et al. Examiner: Alvin J. Stewart  
Serial No.: 10/792,186 Group Art Unit: 3738  
Filed: March 3, 2004 Docket: M190.148.101 / P0011480.00  
**Due Date:** **July 11, 2008**  
Title: SUTURE LOCKING ASSEMBLY AND METHOD OF USE

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**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is responsive to the Office Action mailed June 11, 2008, in which a Restriction Requirement was set forth relative to the Examiner-identified inventions of Group I (claims 1-31 and 54-58) and Group II (claims 51-53). In response, Applicant hereby elects Group I (claims 1-31 and 54-58) with traverse for the following reasons.

Because claims 51-53 have previously been examined in the Office Actions mailed June 14, 2007 and November 16, 2007, it is respectfully submitted that continued examination of all of pending claims 1-58 can be made without serious burden on the Examiner. While Applicant understands the Examiner's indication that claims 51-53 were previously believed to be referring to the embodiment of claim 1, it is respectfully noted that this distinction was repeatedly identified by Applicant and the Examiner continued to examine all claims. Withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement is respectfully requested.

Any inquiry regarding this Response should be directed to Timothy A. Czaja at Telephone No. (612) 573-2004, Facsimile No. (612) 573-2005. In addition, all correspondence should continue to be directed to the following address:

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Respectfully submitted,

Mark Shu et al.,

By their attorneys,

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Reg. No. 39,649

Date: May 11, 2009

TAC:jms